

**APPENDIX II MEETINGS AND MOTIONS OF DISTRICT COUNCILS RELATED TO HEALTHCARE REFORM PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

<b>District Council</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Motion/Chairman's Conclusion:</b>
Central and Western	8 May 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Motion Passed: C&W DC supports the proposals put forward by the Consultation Document on Healthcare Reform, including promoting the concept of family medicine, subsidizing patients for preventive care, strengthening public medical safety net, reducing waiting time of public medical services, developing a territory-wide electronic health record sharing system and enhancing public primary care services. C&W DC supports that active steps should be taken to address the problems of aging population and rising medical expenditure, and urges the government to provide more details about the supplementary financing options in the next stage for public consultation.
Eastern	24 April 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Motion Passed: "In view of the ageing population in Hong Kong, its medical service will face a greater need and pressure, and the community has been much concerned about this. The Eastern District Council supported the government in announcing the "Healthcare Reform Consultation Document" so as to listen to the opinions from all sectors of the community with respect to the healthcare reform and financing options of Hong Kong, and requested the government when making any financing options for healthcare in the future, it must first take into consideration the affordability of the citizens and in the case of the low-income groups, the under-privileged groups, the casualty patients and patients who entail complex and costly treatments, the government should also continue to burden its responsibility."
Islands	5 May 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Chairman's Conclusion: "The Islands District Council supports the general direction embodied in the 'Consultation Document on Health Reform' and believes that Hong Kong should conduct healthcare reform as soon as possible. The Council is in the opinion that the task to be taken first and foremost is the implementation of enhancement of primary healthcare and community healthcare services. A careful study of a sustainable supplementary financing arrangement should be conducted so as to maintain a quality healthcare service. The Council also calls on the government to continue its pledge of providing for the healthcare needs of low-income families and the underprivileged. Any future formulation of supplementary financing arrangement should take into consideration the affordability of the public. In view of the high cost of medical services and limited affordability of individuals, the government should also explore insurance options which would provide an effect of risk-sharing."
Kowloon City	29 May 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Chairman's Conclusion: The Chairman stated that, in all fairness, Hong Kong citizens enjoyed better medical benefits than people in many developed countries. In U.S.A., for example, the general public could hardly afford exorbitant medical expenses without health insurance coverage while in Canada, people were entitled to free medical benefits provided by the government but were subject to high tax rates. Comparatively speaking, Hong Kong citizens were very fortunate. However, due to an aging population and advancement in medical technology, the health care expenditure in the territory kept rising. For these reasons, it was time to consider reforms to the health care system in Hong Kong in order to ensure that the citizens could continue to enjoy quality public health care services and protection. Regarding the health care financing policy, as long as the Government upheld the principle that no one would be denied of adequate health care because of lack of means, the Members would be willing to give their support. Yet when developing supplementary financing options for the reform of the health care system in the future, the Government should, as Members urged, consider carefully the needs of the grassroots in balance with the overall affordability of the community.
Kwai Tsing	8 May 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Motion Passed: "The Kwai Tsing District Council supports the Government to undertake healthcare reform at the earliest to strengthen its services, and supports to uphold the policy that 'no one should be denied adequate healthcare through lacks of means' so that the public healthcare system can continue to take care of the low income families and the under-privileged groups; as well as the introduction of supplementary financing options after public consultation so as to not only provide additional financing source for the healthcare system, but also improve the public-private imbalance in the present healthcare system and bring about real choice for the patients to ensure that quality healthcare services can be maintained."
Kwun Tong	6 May 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Chairman's Conclusion: The Chairman concluded that the Kwun Tong District Council (DC) was supportive of the early implementation of the healthcare reform, including service improvements, and the development of appropriate supplementary financing options so that quality healthcare services could be maintained and members of the public would not be deprived of treatments due to financial difficulties. On the other hand, DC concurred that the Government should increase its commitment to make sure that low-income families and the disadvantaged could continue to be covered by the public healthcare system. The Government should also take the opportunity to review the imbalance between the provision of public and private healthcare services and thereby offer the public a real choice.

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North	5 June 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes - Chinese version only)</a>	Motion Passed: "North District Council supports the Government in implementing Healthcare Reform and working out, after adequate public consultation, a proposal that can achieve sustainable quality healthcare service. North District Council urges the Government to ensure that the medical needs of low-income families and under-privileged groups are met and a reliable safety net is provided to them."
Sai Kung	27 May 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes - Chinese version only)</a>	Chairman's Conclusion: With an ageing population in Hong Kong, the pressure arising from public demand on the quality of healthcare services and service needs of the community would inevitably increase and so healthcare service reform was needed. The Sai Kung District Council hoped that in devising any supplementary healthcare financing option, the Government had to first take account of the affordability of the general public and at the same time adhere to its policy that "no one should be denied adequate healthcare through lack of means". The Government should increase its commitments while the low-income families and underprivileged groups should continue to be taken care of by the public healthcare system.
Sha Tin	29 May 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Motion Passed: "Along with the ageing of population in Hong Kong, the healthcare system of Hong Kong is heavily stressed and burdened. Sha Tin District Council supports the direction of Government in the "Healthcare Reform Consultation Document", enabling the sustainable development of the quality healthcare service of Hong Kong. This Council requests the Government to remain as the main financial support of the healthcare system and protect all social classes during the implementation of reform, especially the needs and rights of the grassroots."
Southern	24 April 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Motion Passed: "The Southern District Council (SDC) is supportive of the main direction set out in the Healthcare Reform Consultation Document. SDC considers that the health system of Hong Kong must be reformed to allow for consistent development. SDC requests the government to ensure that, in implementing any option, it will fully safeguard the needs of the grass roots and take into account the rights of the middle class."
Sham Shui Po	22 April 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Chairman's Conclusion: The Council was of the view that, in response to the problem of ageing population in Hong Kong, the action taken by the HKSAR Government to make preparations for medical protection beforehand displayed courage and commitment. The public medical service in Hong Kong was of a high quality, coupled with the ever changing medical technology, so the financial expenditure required would be enormous and could not be maintained by tax income alone, therefore, it was necessary to bring additional resources by financing. However, the Government should also be responsible for increasing its commitment and looking after low-income families and the underprivileged through the public medical system, so that no one would be denied adequate medical treatment due to financial difficulties. The Council hoped that FHB would draw up concrete plans after considering Members' views, so as to cater for the needs of the general public.
Tai Po	6 May 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Motion Passed: "The TPDC supports the Government to implement the healthcare reform without delay, including improving the quality of the service, and draw up a supplementary financing option after extensive public consultation, so as to maintain the quality healthcare service. The TPDC demands that notwithstanding the implementation of the healthcare reform, the Government should continue to shoulder the responsibilities of taking care of the low-income families, the socially disadvantaged and the people in genuine need, by making sure that no one will be deprived of adequate medical treatment for reason of financial difficulty."
Tsuen Wan	27 May 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Motion Passed: "Tsuen Wan District Council welcomes the Healthcare Reform Consultation Document which widely consults the members of public about the healthcare reform and financing. This Council urges the Government to continue to take care of the low-income families and the underprivileged and to take into account the burdens and needs of the middle-class when formulating any healthcare financing arrangement."
Tuen Mun	6 May 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Motion Passed: "The Tuen Mun District Council agrees that there is a pressing need for healthcare reform and supports the Government in upholding the policy that 'no one should be denied adequate healthcare through lack of means' and in enhancing the quality and level of healthcare services when carrying out healthcare reform, and that the Government should, following public consultation and on the principle of equity, work out in detail a healthcare system and financing options which can provide every member of the community with sufficient protection and develop on a sustainable basis before consulting the community again."
Wan Chai	22 April 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes - Chinese version only)</a>	The Chairman's Conclusion: Members understood that an increase in health expenditure was inevitable in the future. They would consider whether to support the rate of increase only after the actual figure was known. Given the healthcare financing options as currently proposed, the general concern was about what services would be available for use by the underprivileged groups. It was considered that the Government was obliged to provide a public healthcare safety net for services not covered by the healthcare financing options. He added that while there were

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		compelling reasons to proceed with healthcare reform, there were a number of options available. It was hoped that after this round of consultation, more concrete figures could be available for next round of consultation. It was believed that by then, a consensus could be forged gradually within the community.
Wong Tai Sin	6 May 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	Chairman's Conclusion: The Chairman concluded that WTSDC welcomed the issue of "Healthcare Reform Consultation Document" by the Government. As population ageing in Hong Kong was becoming serious, the demand on the quality and provision of healthcare services would surely become greater. There was a need for healthcare reform, but it was hoped that the Government would first take into account the affordability of the public when implementing any supplementary healthcare financing options. At the same time, the policy that "no one should be denied adequate healthcare through lack of means" must be maintained. The Government must increase its commitment, while the public healthcare system must continue to take care of the low-income family and the underprivileged.
Yau Tsim Mong	24 April 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes)</a>	The Chairman summed up Members' views as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Members concurred that healthcare reform was an urgent task in face of an ageing population and rising medical costs. It was also hoped that there would be expansion of the public healthcare safety net and shortening of the waiting time for public healthcare services. The public healthcare reform should be carried out at a greater pace.</li> <li>● With the present public-private imbalance in our healthcare system and the small market share of the private healthcare sector, public aspirations were skewed towards public healthcare. By bringing additional resources to the healthcare system and creating new resources markets, supplementary financing arrangements could bring improvements by rectifying the present public-private imbalance in our healthcare system and offering real choices for patients.</li> <li>● Given the fact that current medical costs were high and individuals were only with limited financial affordability, the Government should carry out a study into insurance proposals that have a risk-sharing effect. Members supported the idea of a personal limit on medical expenses.</li> <li>● With additional contributions from healthcare financing arrangements, the public could be offered real choices as well as readily available personalized healthcare services. Members welcomed the Financial Secretary's proposal to earmark a sum of \$50 billion as supplementary financing. It was hoped that an option with insurance as its central axis would be adopted and the aforesaid sum of money could be utilized to subsidize those who took out insurance.</li> <li>● Option 6 could be considered but its shortcomings included additional burden on the middle-income groups and high administration costs etc. Members hoped that they could be informed of what improvements could be brought to our existing healthcare services by implementation of the reform proposals. They also urged the FHB to strength its publicity efforts and be open-minded by taking into account the views of different strata of the community so that the vast majority of the general public could be benefited.</li> </ul>
Yuen Long	27 May 2008 <a href="#">(Minutes - Chinese version only)</a>	The Chairman concluded as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This Council was pleased that the Healthcare Reform Consultation Document was thoroughly discussed at the District Council. Members generally agreed that the consultation had a positive and constructive impact on the future of Hong Kong. The \$50 billion earmarked by the Financial Secretary was one of the most important supports for healthcare financing and would give the public a great impetus;</li> <li>● This Council agreed that the effectiveness of healthcare reform should be an item on the agenda while a full range of public views should be collected for devising a supplementary financing option to ensure the sustainability of quality healthcare services. At the same time, no one should be denied quality healthcare through lack of means as a result of the reform. Low-income families and the underprivileged groups should continue to be taken care of by the public healthcare system with the Government's increased commitments. As healthcare reform would involve a wide spectrum of issues and parties, the Government should balance the interests of all parties to prevent the emergence of new social conflicts because of the reform;</li> <li>● Healthcare financing was not a scourge. The Government should continue to explore options that were more acceptable to the public and build up a better healthcare system by way of healthcare reform and with the help of supplementary healthcare financing;</li> <li>● Members could continue to put forward their valuable views on the Healthcare Reform Consultation Document through the relevant website or other channels.</li> </ul>

The links to the notes of the DC meetings, the motions passed and the concluding statement of the Chairmen are available on the Healthcare Reform website (<http://www.beStrong.gov.hk>).